GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3592
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
LAND SALINITY IN MAHARASHTRA
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that due to excessive use of water, fertilizers and failure of drainage system in the water shed areas, 24 thousand acres of land has become saline in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Union Government are also aware that land salinity has been increasing byan alarming rate of 10 per cent every year in the country particularly in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the action taken and proposed to be taken by the Government to check land salinity in the State?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): No systematic survey has been made to asses annual increment in land salinity. However, the soil is getting more saline due to excessive irrigation, fertilizer application and lack of adequate drainage.

(c): The Government of Maharashtra has formulated reclamation programme of waterlogged saline soils on the basis of irrigation sources.

1) Major & Medium irrigation projects

The affected soils from the command areas of such irrigation projects are being reclaimed by laying of field channels and field drainage etc. Currently, the drainage scheme is being implemented by Research and Development Division of Irrigation Department.

2) Private & Cooperative lift Irrigation scheme

The Government of Maharashtra has constituted Maharashtra WaterConservation Corporation. It is decided that, the drainage schemes for the affected soils in the command of Lift Irrigation Schemes be planned andimplemented by Maharashtra Water Consdervation Board in association with Minor Irrigation (local sector) Department.